

REMARKS

Claims 22-26, 28-46 and 48-61 are pending and under examination. Claims 22-26 and 28-41 are allowed. Claim 42 has been amended into an independent claim. Claims 43-46 and 48-61 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly upon claim 42 and to recite the limitations found in the claims upon which they originally depended, *i.e.*, claims 23-26 and 28-41, respectively. Support for the amendment to claims 42-46 and 48-61 may be found *inter alia* in original claims 22-26 and 28-41, respectively, upon which these claims originally depended. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment. Claims 22-26, 28-46 and 48-61 will therefore now pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 42-46 and 48-61 for the recitation of "synthesis of citalopram" in each claim, for which the Examiner asserts there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation.

Claim 42 has been amended into an independent claim which recites the process steps for synthesis of 5-carboxyphthalide. Claims 43-46 and 48-61 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly upon claim 42 and to recite the limitations found in the claims upon which they originally depended, *i.e.*, claims 23-26 and 28-41, respectively. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 42-46 and 48-61 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable action. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below if progress of this application could be advanced.

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By:

Respectfully submitted,
KENYON & KENYON


Maria Luisa Palmese
Registration No. 34,402

KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, New York 10004
212-425-7200 (Telephone)
212-908-6140 (Direct)
212-425-5288 (Fax)